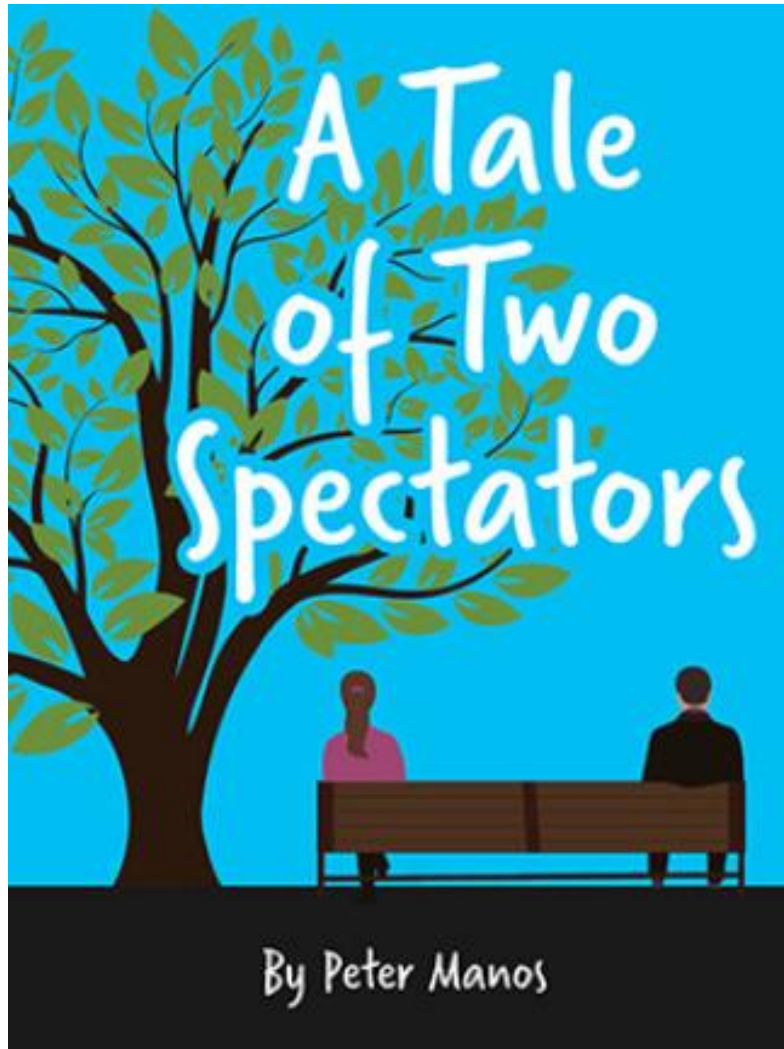


## Director's Notebook

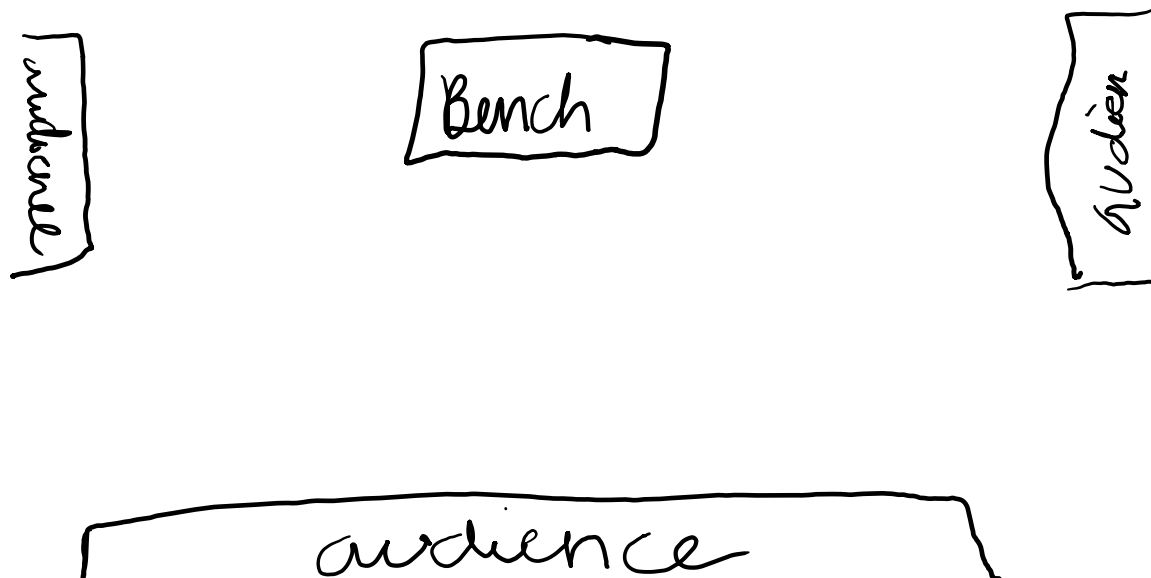


Director: Kalaylah Chisolm

## First Reading Response

My first reaction to the play while reading the excerpt before purchasing the full script was this is funny. There are two people that are watching their respective spouses cheat on them well, is that not like legendary. However, I also wanted to know what the two characters would do with the information that they had. Would they just leave let it be and confront the spouses alone or would the two partners confront them together? Since there was only two characters, I was interested in them the most because they both were coping with the situation differently. The Woman character seemed to really despise and slightly admire what she was seeing but is also heartbroken. The male character just seemed to be outright nervous about the whole situation. The situation that the characters are in is what really grabbed my attention. It is not every day that you catch the person that your partner is cheating with and meet the partner of the person that your partner is cheating with! Some unfamiliar words and references that I encountered were Blue Nun, Chablis, Bordeaux, and Grecian Formula. The set would be very straight forward and simple. The two actors would be sitting on a bench on stage together and that would be about it.

Diagram:



The play is set in the park. This information is providing before the play begins in the character descriptions section. The play is probably taken place somewhere up north since the Man character states that, "Cold spell down from Canada" when the Woman character mentioned that it was getting colder outside. Additionally, the Man character mentions that it is spring, and it can be unpredictable.

The characters in the play are strangers to each other besides the occasional meet up that they have been having for a couple months. One could say that from the experience of

them visiting their spouses cheat on them with each other that they have kind of become friends. I learned about their relationship through their dialogue they asked each other how work was going, they talked about how their spouses were cheating on them for a month or so now and they have also just made small talk about the weather together.

The overall mood of the play was comedic, but also sad. These two characters are going through a situation that no one wants to encounter however, they do not know what they want to do. They are not sure if they should confront their spouse or just keep letting it happen. I did not find myself identifying with a particular character however, I did feel sympathy for them both. Especially, when the Man character talks about a husband being the one to buy a thoughtful gift for their partner, but a lover just buys a gift.

# **Dramaturgy**

## About the Playwright



Peter Manos has been a director, playwright, professor, and actor in New York and regionally.

He recently published:

- A new play about the Underground Railroad, OH FREEDOM! THE STORY OF THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD
- A new play about the Civil Rights Movement: WALK, DON'T RIDE: A CELEBRATION OF THE FIGHT FOR EQUALITY,
- Recently his comedy set in the Middle Ages, GOLDEN, was a finalist at Centre Stage's New Play Festival in Greenville, S.C.
- His dramatic interpretation of Anthony Hope's THE PRISONER OF ZENDA was presented at Paper Mill Playhouse in New Jersey
- His play COLONEL CHABERT about a Napoleonic cavalry officer, presumed dead, who comes back years later to reclaim his since-remarried wife, based on the short story by Honore de Balzac, was a runner-up at the L. Arnold Weissberger New Dramatist Competition and was presented at New York's Ensemble Studio Theatre and Manhattan Class Company.
- PASTORAL SYMPHONY, inspired by the Andre Gide novelette about a Swiss pastor's destructive love for a blind girl, was given a workshop production at the Lamb's Theatre Company in New York and was awarded a Pilgrim Excellence in the Arts grant.
- His Revolutionary War drama, SILKIE, was a finalist for the Beverly Hills Theatre Guild's Julie Harris Playwright Award

- His one act comedy CHILD'S PLAY, about backstage shenanigans at a traveling children's theatre, premiered at Manhattan Punchline in New York.
- He recently completed his Ph.D. studies in American history at University of Akron, specializing in the American Revolution, and teaches at John Carroll University, Cleveland State University and Cuyahoga Community College in both history and communication/theatre.
- Manos is artistic director of the Bodwin Theatre Company.
- He is blessed to be married to the actress Sandra Manos. They have three wonderful boys: Sean, Eli and Nicholas.

<https://newplayexchange.org/users/3849/peter-manos>

### **Questions for the Playwright**

The playwright for this piece is on the New Play Exchange so, I decided to email him and ask him a couple of questions that I had about the play. In doing so, I was able to ask him what his intent for the play was because I was not sure about it after reading the play a couple of times. I feel that being unsure about the intent was the reason why I "liked" the play and maybe did not "love" it. However, after getting the answers to my questions from him it helped me understand his intent more than if I just relied on my interpretation.

#### **Email Reply:**

*Hi, Kalaylah, thank you for your e-mail. I will try to answer your questions as best as I can.*

***I noticed that you write a lot of historical plays, "Loving" being one of my favorites, and I was wondering why did you choose to write "The Tale of Two Spectators"?***

*The Tale of Two Spectators actually predates a lot of my historical plays when I lived in New York and would walk through Central Park a great deal. I noticed people watching each other and pretending not to and wondered what would happen if there was really an important reason why they were studying each other. That's when I thought of the man and woman watching their spouses cheat on them.*

***Is there any advice you'd give for directing the piece?***

*Don't give them too much direction at first. Let the actors just find their way with it and fun with it. The relationship will develop, especially if the actors have a good rapport with each other. Just tell them not to "perform," just be themselves. The truth in their acting will make it all work. Tell them not to try to be funny or a caricature, but just to be real. Then the play will work.*

***Is there anything else you'd like to tell me about the play?***

*The beauty of the piece is that anybody can play the roles. This kind of thing could happen to anybody. These two people are doing the best they can. They don't want to lose their spouses, but they half know they have lost them already, and so all the man and woman have, ultimately, is each other.*

*All the best,*

*Peter Manos*

### **Place/Time Period**

When looking at the place of the play, there is no specific location when it comes to a city, state, country, etc. besides the park. I loved that this is as open as it is because it shows that no matter where you are there will always be people that cheat and people that are being cheated on. The characters could be in Central Park, Cherry Park, or Jarvis Creek Park. At the beginning of the script, the playwright puts the setting as “a park” and that is all. I believe that this is because he just wanted this play to be universal. After messaging the playwright, I was able to understand how universal that he wanted the play to be perceived. Dr. Manos mentions that his play derived from when he lived in New York and would walk through Central Park and “people watch” per say, as the two characters in the play are actually doing, and always wondered what the person on the bench were thinking about the person that they were watching. There is also no time period indicated in the script. However, when the woman talks about the spouses drinking “Blue Nun” which was a wine that was popular around the 1920s, but really took on the world in the 1950s. This reference to the wine could give a sense of when the play could take place. As a director, if the actors were of age, I could bring in the bottle of Blue Nun into rehearsal for the actors to taste the wine. We could discuss how the wine may give insight on how the spouses feel about each other. Are they fruity and sweet? Are they dry? Are they smooth? The wine reference could also give the actors insight on the spouses or the people that they are watching.

### **[Blue Nun History](#)**

Blue Nun is some boujee wine! It appeared in the 24K Magic Tour after parties and 2018 in the Golden Globes and the Grammys.

### **[Fred Astaire and Ginger Jones](#)**

The Woman character mentions that when watching the spouses, it is almost like watching a dance. Specifically, she mentions watching Fred Astaire and Ginger Jones dancing. Astaire and Jones were dance partners around the 1930s in a total of 10 films. The women character mentioning this couple gives insight to the audience on how the spouses interacted with each other. When watching Astaire and Jones dance together, you notice an elegance, like they are gracefully moving together as if they are soulmates and

they are incredibly happy dancing with each other. When directing this piece, I would have my actors watch this to get a sense of what they may be seeing their character's spouses interact with each other while they are watching them on the park bench. Additionally, this reference gives sense of time because the time period would have to take place after the 1930s due to the reference to the two dances.

### **Music**

There was not any music in the play. However, I thought about maybe having a subtle sound in the background of the script of park noises. I just don't know how distracting it would be throughout the entire play. It would probably be something that the production team and cast would have to work through together to see if it works or not. The sound would probably include like an occasional bird chirping, faint sounds of children playing, cars passing by, etc. If I were to go through with this idea, then I would go to the park a couple times throughout the process to get live sound bites from the park. That way it is authentic to the play. The park is sometimes incredibly quiet with the wind blowing here and there, the birds chirping, voices of people passing, and any other sounds that nature has to offer. I would also recommend to my actors to go to the park and people watch. I would advise them to notice points in the watching where they looked somewhere else than the person they were observing because they were worried that they may feel that someone is watching them or experience the moment when you and the person you are watching makes eye contact with you. How did the interaction make you feel? Did you feel like you were trapped in confrontation, or did you feel that if you looked away you were okay?



**Script**

## Scenic/Chunk Breakdown

- **Scene 1:** Man and Woman discuss the binoculars/opera glasses to watch their spouses
  - pg. 7 – 9
  - End: Woman: “Oh, shut up.”
- **Scene 2:** Man and Woman discuss woman bringing the popcorn and man’s favorite blanket being used for their spouses escapes with each other
  - Pg. 9 – 10
  - End: Man: “Hm.”
- **Scene 3:** Man and Woman discusses man’s nervous tick of chewing gum and how man wants a gun for revenge.
  - Pg. 10 -12
  - End: Man: “Then for her birthday I chickened out.”
- **Scene 4:** Woman is fed up and wanting to go and confront them, but Man tries to calm her down.
  - Pg. 12 – 15
  - End: Man “Let me see that popcorn.”
- **Scene 5:** Man asks Woman how things are going with her business meanwhile; the husband gives the wife a ring which leads to Woman having a breakdown.
  - Pg. 15 – 17
  - End: Woman: “OK. Done. You didn’t see that. OK? I mean... I’m fine. OK?”
- **Scene 6:** Man comes to the realization that maybe they should confront the couple. However, Woman thinks about ways that she can get her husband back.
  - Pg. 17 – 19
  - End: Woman: “Yeah. Like a dream.”
- **Scene 7:** Man and Woman being to say their goodbyes and prepare to see each other next week.
  - Pg. 19 to end

## Scene Analysis Color Codes:

- Blue boxes are for blocking
- Green Underlining is for Woman Units, Actions, Objectives, etc.
- Purple Underling is for Man Units, Actions, Objectives, etc.

"Scene 4"

12

A Tale of Two Spectators

WOMAN. You think I don't know all his moves by heart? He hasn't changed in fifteen years.

MAN. Fifteen years? How old are you? Fifteen years?

WOMAN. Oh, give me the binoculars.

MAN (*handing binoculars to her*). I thought you were younger.

WOMAN. Younger than what?

MAN. Fifteen years?

(*WOMAN looks through the binoculars.*)

MAN (*cont'd*). You're either a child bride or I'd like the name of your plastic surgeon.

WOMAN. For your sake I hope that's a compliment. I happen to be a black belt. Don't start with me.

MAN. Fifteen years. I didn't think anybody married in their twenties anymore. Like if you weren't thirty-five you couldn't get parental consent or something. Go to the drugstore and the same people buying Similac are buying Grecian Formula. It's amazing.

(*WOMAN leans forward as she looks through binoculars, mesmerized.*)

MAN (*cont'd*). You know, it's our anniversary this Saturday. Six years this Saturday. I'm going to show her the photo we took of them. That's going to be my anniversary present to her. If I don't chicken out. Last Christmas, you know, I was gonna do it then. I chickened out.

(*WOMAN stands slowly, still looking.*)

MAN (*cont'd*). Then for her birthday I chickened out.

Start → WOMAN (*stating a fact*). I'm going to kill them.

Given Circumstances:

Location: Secluded bench at a park

There's no date, or year indicated however, the characters mention

stand and begin to angrily strut to the spouses.

A cold spell coming along and it getting cooler outside so, the time of year would be the in between of fall and winter. The characters are middle class working people, the characters are dealing with their spouses cheating on them with the respective spouses. (Online Theatre Edition)

Immediate Circumstance:

Woman is fed up with watching the spouses and want to confront them.

Essential Question:

How will they confront their spouses?

Woman:  
I threaten you.  
I admire you.  
I embarrass you.

Unit 1: I threaten you. The way woman wants to confront the couple is by threatening to kill them.

(She starts to walk forward)  
Man stand to grab her arm

MAN (pulling her back). Hey! Wait! Don't! Sit down!

(WOMAN sits, still staring through the binoculars.)

MAN (cont'd). Let me see. Man sits back down

WOMAN. In a minute.

MAN. They're my glasses.

WOMAN. In a minute. In a minute. Have some popcorn. (To herself.) My God. That's new.

MAN (eating her popcorn). What's new?

WOMAN. He's been reading a manual. Has to. He's never done that move with me.

MAN. Please let me see. Unit 1 ↑

(She hands him the binoculars. He looks.)

WOMAN. You really have to admire them. It's almost like watching a dance. Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers. That's what they remind me of. You know, he used to run his nose down the back of my neck. It seemed silly to me. But from a distance it looks kind of graceful. And of course he adds that little flourish between her shoulder blades. That's new. He never did that to me. Yeah, you really have to admire them a bit.

MAN. Do you have any gum? I'm out of gum.

WOMAN. Maybe if you didn't chew every piece at the same time.

MAN. I just asked if you had some gum.

WOMAN. I don't chew.

MAN. Don't chew. What do you mean you don't chew?  
2) Going over to the spouses asking my husband for a smoke  
3) Thinking about borrowing a cig after

Woman:

Literal Action:

Yearning to confront my husband

Essential Action:

Finding conniving ways to embarrass my husband

AS IF:

Trying to embarrass the bully that's been bothering me.

Objective:

I need to confront my husband.

Tactics:

1) Threaten the spouses by going up to them in a rage

Unit 2: 1  
 admire you.  
 woman admires  
 the "love"  
 that husband  
 and wife  
 has, but it  
 still doesn't  
 stop her  
 desire to want  
 to confront  
 them.

A Tale of Two Spectators

WOMAN. Some people don't smoke. I don't chew.

MAN (*looking*). Oop. They've stopped. I wonder why they stopped. Do you think they sense that we're here? No. False alarm. Just catching their breath. They've started again. I can't believe they don't have to get back to work now. She's with Stern and Stern. I'm surprised she can get away at all for lunch. I mean, they work you to death in that place.

WOMAN (*taking binoculars from him, looks*). Do you have a cigarette?

MAN. I don't smoke.

WOMAN. I'm going to go over there and borrow a cigarette off of him. I'd love to see his face. I really would. Right now. I would just love to see his face.

(She stands.)

Unit 2 ↑

Unit 3:  
 I embarrass  
 you.

Woman  
 wants to  
 embarrass  
 her husband  
 by walking  
 over and  
 asking for  
 a smoke.  
 He would be  
 shocked and  
 embarrassed  
 and shocked  
 by seeing her  
 there.

MAN (*suddenly fearful*). Don't.

sits at the edge of  
 the bench

WOMAN. Why not?

MAN (*not sure why not*). We'd lose the element of surprise.

WOMAN. What element of surprise? What are you talking about?

MAN. I just don't think we have quite enough to go on yet.

WOMAN. Enough to go on?! They've been doing this every week for months!

Sinks back into the bench

MAN. I know. I'm just—I don't know. I guess I'm just not ready—you know. To confront them, I mean.

WOMAN. Of course, I can't borrow a cigarette off of him. He quit cigarettes for Lent. (She sits.) Next week. I'll get him next week. He'll be smoking next week. I'll say: "Hi, Roger, bum a smoke?" That's what I'll say. (*Looks again.*) She's good.

Unit 1: I beg you.

Objective: I need woman to not blow our cover.

Man ask woman repeatedly for the glasses to be able to get her eyes off the couple and continue to make herself an am.

Man:

Literal  
 Action:

Hiding  
 from con-  
 frontation  
 with my  
 wife.

Essential  
 Action:

Distracting  
 Women  
 about  
 thinking  
 of ways  
 to confront  
 her husb-  
 and

As if:

Leading  
 your  
 parent  
 away  
 from  
 something  
 you broke  
 of theirs

Tactics:

1) Asking  
 for the  
 glasses  
 back

2) Asking  
 for  
 gum

3) Convincing  
 woman  
 that we  
 should  
 have  
 an  
 element  
 of surprise

Unit 2: I distract you man distracts woman by asking her for gum in hopes to chew loud enough to get her mind off of confrontation  
(Online Theatre Edition) 15

Unit 3:

I convince you

Man convinces woman to calm down and not confront the couple

END

MAN. What's that?

WOMAN. Your wife's pretty good.

MAN. I know. Your husband's not bad either.

WOMAN. He's got his moments.

MAN. Let me see that popcorn.

*(She hands him the bag. He starts munching. Soon they're both eating popcorn and watching.)*

Where: the park bench

Who: Man and woman speaking about their spouses

Relationship: They know each other from their shared experience. The relationship is friendly.

Unit 3

MAN. By the way, I forgot to ask you. How's your business going?

WOMAN. It's fine. We just got a litter of Scottish Terriers—full papers and everything—and they're going like hotcakes. I'm going to be able to finish the payments on the new fish tank.

MAN. That's great.

WOMAN. How about you?

MAN. Oh, things are getting exciting, actually. The tube-top patent came through, and we're contracting now to manufacture. Close-Up and Ultra-Bright have already expressed an interest.

WOMAN. Great.

MAN. Yeah. It's gonna revolutionize how people squeeze out their toothpaste. You just watch.

WOMAN. He's got something in his hand.

MAN. What?

WOMAN. I don't know.

*(She hands him the binoculars. He looks.)*

MAN. Her roots are showing. She hates it when her roots are showing. Damned if I'm gonna tell her tonight.

# **Character Analysis**

## Character Analysis for Woman

“Woman: 20s to 70s”

- Peter Manos *Character Description*

- **4 Levels**

- **Physical**

- There are not any direct physical descriptions given for the character of women throughout the script. I believe this is because the director wanted to keep this story as universal as possible. I would describe Woman as insecure, strong, and confident.

- **Socio-Economic**

- Woman’s socio-economic status would be middle class since she has a business that she talks to Man about that is up and coming.

- **Moral/Ethical**

- Woman’s morals would be to not cheat and to tell the truth. She is upset that her husband is cheating on her however, even though her and the Man are bonding over the fact that their spouses are cheating on them, the woman could easily cheat on her husband with someone else, but as far as we know she has not. She believes that cheating is wrong and that her husband should tell her the truth if he does not love her anymore instead of leaving her to play along with his lies.

- **Psychological**

- Psychologically, woman is broken and insecure. Just like anyone would if they were to be cheated on. She wants to change her appearance to be more like the women that she believes her husband wants, for example, Dolly Parton. She talks about getting a wig and dressing like her in hope that her husband will love her again. She doesn’t want Man to see her cry because she is afraid that if he sees her cry, she loses the strong façade that she is trying to withhold since she’s a businesswoman. Additionally, I also believe that she does not want anyone to know that she is broken or being cheat on because it is embarrassing. It makes it seem like she was not enough for her husband that he had to find someone else to be with.

- **What I say about me...**

- “Give me your binoculars. I forgot mine.” (p. 7)
- “Let me use them first. Right now. And please don’t talk to me so much. It’s been a bad day.” (p.7)
- “I try not to think about you at all. Now, may I please see your binoculars?” (p.8)
- “He didn’t tell me about taking the day off. Of course he wouldn’t would he.” (p.8)
- “I can’t believe they’re drinking Blue Nun.” (p.9)



- “I was hungry” (p.9)
- “Maybe she doesn’t care. God knows *he* doesn’t care what I notice.” (p.10)
- “What do you mean what have I noticed? I’m here, aren’t I?” (p.10)
- “Just asking. I was on a committee for gun control. You know there wasn’t a single woman there who was against gun control? Only some of the men were. Are you against gun control?” (p.11)
- “Just answer me. Because I vowed then never ever to associate with anybody who is against gun control.” (p.11)
- “Please don’t duck the issue. This is very important to me.” (p.11)
- “You think I don’t know all his moves by heart? He hasn’t changed in fifteen years.” (p.12)
- “For your sake I hope that’s a compliment. I happen to be a black belt. Don’t start with me.” (p.12)
- “I’m going to kill them.” (p.12)
- “You really have to admire them. It’s almost like watching a dance...You know, he used to run his nose down the back of my neck. It seemed silly to me. But from a distance it looks kind of graceful.... He never did that to me. Yeah, you really have to admire them a bit.” (p.13)
- “Some people don’t smoke. I don’t chew.” (p. 14)
- “I’m going to go over there and borrow a cigarette off of him. I’d love to see his face. I really would. Right now. I would just love to see his face.” (p. 14)
- “Of course, I can’t borrow a cigarette off of him. He quit cigarettes for Lent. Next week. I’ll get him next week. He’ll be smoking next week, I’ll say; “Hi, Roger, bum a smoke?” That’s what I’ll say.” (p.14)
- “I am not going to cry. Oh. That bastard. No way I am going to cry. No. I won’t give anybody the satisfaction...” (p.17)
- “Ok. Done. You didn’t see that. Ok? I mean... I’m fine. Ok?” (p. 17)
- “Not today. I don’t – I don’t look right. My hair’s all funny and my eyes are red.” (p.18)
- “My hair is not fine. What do you know about my hair? You don’t know anything about my hair!...God. I don’t want anybody to see me today.” (p. 18)
- “Except you. You don’t count. I mean – I don’t mean it like that. But like, I’ve got nothing to prove with you. I mean, we’re in the same boat.” (p.18)
- “Or a wig. I should get a wig. A big, blonde wig. He likes Dolly Parton. I should become Dolly Parton. Stuff my bra and wear cowboy boots and sing through my nose while I serve him his dinner.” (p.18)
- **What they say about me...**
  - Man: “Do you think it’s been a good day for me? Do you think I don’t have bad days too?” (p.8)
  - Man: “Where are you looking? On the ground over there? They’re on the ground? Oh my God, they’re on the ground!” (p.8)
  - Man: “What’s that? Popcorn? You were watching them and eating popcorn?!” (p.9)

- Man: “What are they to you? A matinee? Popcorn! Jesus!” (p.9)
- Man: “What have you noticed?” (p.10)
- Man: “Fifteen years? How old are you? Fifteen years?” (p.12)
- Man: “I thought you were younger.” (p.12)
- Man: “You’re either a child bride or I’d like the name of your plastic surgeon.” (p. 12)
- Man: “Well, I don’t know. I think yours is nicer. That one is so - ornate.” (p.17)
- Man: “Maybe you’re right. Maybe we should go over there and confront them. This has gone too far. We’ve got to stop this. Let’s go over and confront them.” (p. 17)
- Man: “I think you look fine. I really do.” (p.18)
- **I am Statements**
  - I am...
    - A businesswoman
    - Strong
    - Insecure
    - Someone who is being cheated on
    - Broken
- **Character Pace**
  - The woman’s speech pattern and vocal inflections would be short. I believe that she is one to be short and to the point. Until she has her moments with longer lines, I believe that she is this way because she is hurt from what she is seeing, but also how she builds her wall from being seen by others. Also, when she talks about her ring, this is the moment that we really see how hurt she is. She breaks down in front of Man about her ring and thing shows that she is heartbroken and insecure about this moment. Physically, I would want woman to be very upright. I believe that she sits up tall and with her head held up high. She must give this façade of being strong because in the inside she is terribly broken and embarrassed. However, she doesn’t want anyone in the outside to ever know how she actually feels.
- **Who is Woman talking to?**
  - Woman is talking to Man. They are sharing this experience with each other. However, at times it also feels that Woman is talking aloud to herself. She is taking this moment and processing it as much as she is experiencing it with Man. Her relationship with Man is built from being broken together since they are watching both their spouses cheat on them with each other. Their relationship is also a friendship and nothing more. I believe that with the amount of time that they’ve spent together watching their spouses that they’ve thought about revenge, but then they realize that’s not the best way to go about this. So, they decide that they should just meet each other each week until they are both ready to confront their

spouses together whether it be confronting them here and now, together, or in the privacy of their homes.

## Character Analysis for Man

“Man: 20s to 70s”

- Peter Manos *Character Description*

- **4 Levels**

- **Physical**

- I feel the physicality of the man is also not give because the playwright wanted to make the story as universal as possible. I would describe man as sensitive, thoughtful, and awkward.

- **Socio-Economic**

- Man’s socio-economic status would be middle class as well since he has a business/invention that he talks about to Woman that is up and coming.

- **Moral/Ethical**

- Woman and Man share similar morals. Man believes in not cheating and telling the truth. However, I feel that man is afraid of the confrontation. He tells woman to not go and confront their spouses, but he also talks about how he “chickened” out on telling his wife that he knows that she is cheating on him. I feel that he would rather her just tell him the truth and him just say, “I know” instead of him being direct with her.

- **Psychological**

- Psychologically, man is broken as well, but I also feel that he is confused. He feels that he’s given his wife so much that he is unsure why she would cheat on him. He mentions the gift ideas that he had for her that was thoughtful for his needs, but then he wonders if that was not enough. Was he not enough for her? Is it because he is too sensitive? I feel that both characters are just going through the process of being cheated on. You start to question everything that you have done and then question yourself to understand what went wrong and what did you do instead of what did THEY do to you.

- **What I say about me...**

- “I know I’m late. You don’t have to tell me I’m late. I don’t see them. Are they there? They’re not on their usual bench.” (p.7)

- “I stomped on lots of things. I didn’t just relegate myself to the binoculars. I stomped on lots of things. So get off my back, please.” (p.9)

- “I really like that blanket. She’s tuning one of my favorite blankets.” (p.10)

- “I need to get a gun.” (p.11)

- “I’m gonna shoot her. That’s one of my favorite blankets.” (p.11)

- “I don’t care one way or the other, but I’d like to gun control them right now.” (p.11)

- "... I'm going to show her the photo we took of them. That's going to be my anniversary present to her. If I don't chicken out. Last Christmas, you know, I was gonna do it then. I chickened out." (p.12)
- "Do you have any gum? I'm out of gum." (p.13)
- "I don't smoke." (p.14)
- "I know, I'm just – I don't know. I guess I'm just not ready – you know. To confront them, I mean." (p.14)
- "I've been lonely all my life, I think. Even when I'm with other people I feel like I'm all alone. You ever feel that? It struck me a few weeks ago. I was at this party. I knew everybody there. Some people there I'd known since I was a little boy. And you know what? I felt like they were all ghosts. I couldn't touch them. I couldn't feel them, hear them, see them hardly. I was alone. You ever feel that?" (p.16)
- "'Happy anniversary, honey' and she'll kiss me on the cheek and open up the present – and – God I hope I don't chicken out." (p.18)
- **What they say about me...**
  - Woman: "You're late" (p.7)
  - Woman: "You're not gonna start with the gum again, are you? (p.10)
  - Woman: "Maybe if you didn't chew every piece at the same time." (p.13)
- **I am Statements**
  - I am...
    - An inventor
    - A lover
    - Awkward
    - Someone who is being cheated on
    - Sensitive
    - Thoughtful
- **Character Pace**
  - The man's pace would be uncertain and fidgety. I feel that he is so uncertain of what he wants to do that he is not able to sit still compared to how the woman is able to handle herself throughout watching the spouses. I feel that he would sit on the bench in multiple positions. Perhaps at one point sitting on the bench with his elbows on his thighs or slouched back on the bench with his arms across his chest. I feel that the man would also have a vocal pace that is steady. He doesn't talk too fast nor does he talk too slow. Honestly, the Man just likes talking. Even if it is unrelated, he just likes talking to the Woman during their time on the bench even if she doesn't seem to want to talk. He can also be loud at times because again, he really is not sure if he should be angry with his wife or just sad.
- **Who is Man talking to?**
  - The Man is talking to the Woman. I feel that he initiates more conversation with her because it helps with his nervousness within the situation. Although, just like the Woman, I feel that he talks to himself at

points throughout the play because he too is trying to process the actions of his wife. The Man's relationship with the Woman is genuine. He feels bad that his wife is cheating with her husband. He compliments her in hopes to help her feel better about the situation. He is caring and thoughtful towards her because he is a gentleman. The Man is really just sorry for the Woman as much as he is sorry for himself that they are experiencing this situation.

# **Concept/Analysis**

## Analysis

- **Major Dramatic Question:** Will the man and woman confront their spouses?
- **Central Metaphor:** Lust blinds Love
  - We often lust over people and often believe that it is love, but we are blinded to the fact that the person we maybe “in love” with really does not care about you as a person and just craves for the attention that you are giving them. The reason why I chose the verb blinds because the characters are looking at their spouses’ cheat on them through opera glasses. They are able to see their spouse in a different lens. Who knows if their spouse is really in love or just being lustful, but the Man and Woman are able to see that there’s something missing in their relationship. The Man or the Woman could have been lusting over their husband or wife or they could have been in love with them. They are now able to see that what they felt for their husband or wife was not what they thought they felt for them.
- **Themes**
  - Telling the truth is hard to do
    - Both characters are dealing with confronting their spouses and coming to terms with themselves that they are being cheated on. The characters know that telling the truth about watching their spouses cheat on them or their spouses tell the truth that they are cheating on them is hard to do either way. The characters are having a hard time telling themselves the truth because they do not want to have to deal with the thought of losing their spouse, but they know that they have lost them already and it is a hard concept to be able to just get over in one night or even a month.
  - Love vs. Lust
    - Love vs. Lust is a theme because both characters in their own way are trying to figure out if their marriage was about love or if it was lustful. Maybe the Man or Woman character are really in love with their spouse, but their spouse is lusting over them, but are truly in love with the person they are cheating on them with. My favorite line from the show is when man states, “But you know, it’s a gift from a husband. You see what I’m saying? It’s not a gift from a lover. It’s a gift from a husband.” (p.19) This line really stuck with me because someone that loves you will spend time and thought into the reason for buying you a gift. They listen to your needs and wants over time to give you something that you’ve been asking for or need in that moment of your life. However, a lover will go to the generic gift isle and pick up something that they think is “cute” or you will “like”, but never once thought about your interest. That’s the difference between being in love and lusting.



- **Symbols**

- Bench
  - The bench is where the Man and Woman meet to watch their spouses each week. This is their space to internalize what is going on in their life. It is almost sacred for them and helps them cope/process what they are seeing at the park.
- Binoculars/Opera Glasses
  - The opera glasses are how the characters are able to see their spouses and through those lenses they realize that maybe their spouses are happier than they have ever been. Through those lenses the characters are able to see their spouses in a different perspective than they had before.

**Concept**

- **Image**



- The image that I chose to represent the world of the play was a bench in a secluded area of a park. This central image comes from being a recurring item and the dialogue in the play. The play takes place at a park. The characters are watching their spouses cheat on them on another park bench. I feel that if I were watching my spouses cheat, I would want to be in a secluded area of the park that I was not able to be seen. In that case, I also feel that the couples that are cheating would want to be in a secluded area as well. Either way, a secluded bench would be a perfect view for each to sit at. Additionally, the binoculars/opera glasses would be needed to see the spouses from the secluded bench in the park.

- **Ground Plan**

- My ground plan inspiration picture is very similar to my central image. The set is very minimal for this show and I love it. The bench would be wooden, older, and maybe have carvings of people writing in their initials with hearts or the classic “So and So was here”. I feel that will portray how the characters are either sitting in a bench where two people last week were watching their spouses cheat on them or was sitting on that bench cheating on their partner. The wood on that bench would tell more stories than we realize.

audience

Bench

audience

audience